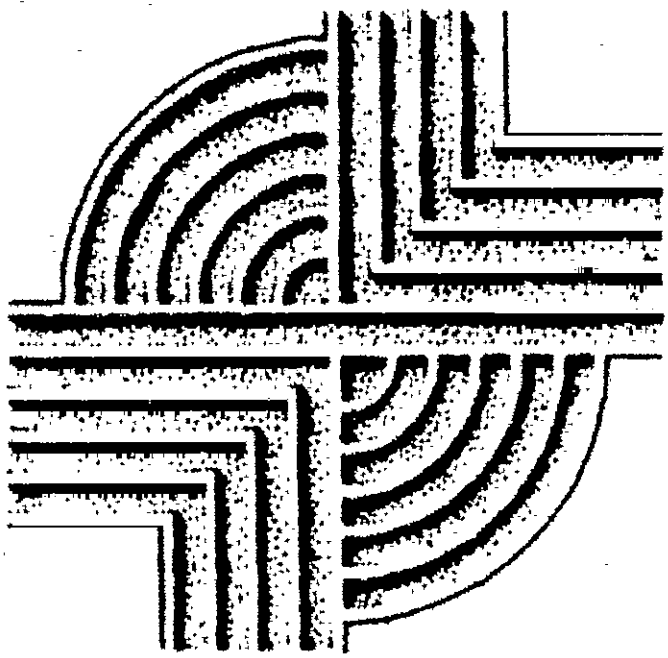
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE COOPER RIVER ZONE PLANNING AREA, EAST COOPER INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER FACILITIES, SOUTH CAROLINA



CHICORA RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 274

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE COOPER RIVER ZONE PLANNING AREA, EAST COOPER RIVER INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER FACILITIES, SOUTH CAROLINA

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ABSTRACT

This study provides a brief historical and archaeological overview of what is designated the Cooper River Zone Planning Area and is intended to help appropriately locate industrial wastewater facilities in the East Cooper area of Berkeley County, South Carolina.

The study area encompasses approximately 2,600 acres in southwest Berkeley County. The boundaries follow the Back River from its junction with the Cooper River northward to Chicken Creek, which it follows to the north-northeast to the East Branch of the Cooper River. It continues along the East Cooper southward, diverging at the junction of French Quarter Creek. About 1.5 miles south the boundary leaves French Quarter Creek and strikes out overland to the east, crossing Clements Ferry Road (S-98) and following an irregular line just east of Gobel Swamp southward, crossing the French Quarter Creek about 0.8 mile south of Charity Church Road (S-99). It arcs southwestward eventually joining again with Clements Ferry Road about 0.8 mile north of St. Thomas Church. The study boundary then follows the road southward to the church, where it turns sharply to the west, meeting with the headwaters of Flag Creek, which it follows westward to the Cooper River.

The goal of this study is to generally review the known archaeological and historical resources in the study tract in an effort to characterize the vicinity. This characterization will allow evaluation of proposed alignments for wastewater sewer facilities being proposed for the study area.

In order to obtain the information necessary to develop an overview the S.C. Department of Archives and History was consulted for information on any National Register eligible buildings, districts, structures, sites, or objects in the study area. In addition, we inquired concerning the results of any structures surveys which may have been completed in the study area.

We also reviewed the site files at the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology concerning the location of representative previous surveys in the project area, as well as the location of previously recorded archaeological sites.

This background work revealed that the vast majority of the project area is contained within the proposed Cooper River Historic District. This district, encompassing about 80,000 acres, is being nominated by Historic Charleston Foundation and is currently in a draft form. Nevertheless, the S.C. State Historic Preservation Office has determined that the district is eligible for inclusion on the National Register. Within the study tract there are 20 specific resources listed by the nomination.

In addition, we identified at least 129 previously recorded archaeological sites. The vast majority of these sites have been recorded as a result of intensive surveys (although different methodologies were used) of specific development parcels. It is likely that a great many additional archaeological sites are likely in the study tract.

The background research reveals that the Cooper River Zone Planning Area contains a number of archaeological and historical resources — many of which are currently known to be either on or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I want to thank Mr. Todd Hejlik, of our staff, who was primarily responsible for assembling the data necessary for this overview. Maps were prepared, and more importantly, double checked, by Ms. Suzanne Coyle.

In addition, I appreciate the assistance and cooperation of the staffs of the S.C. Department of Archives and Historic, particularly Dr. Tracy Power, and the S. C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, particularly Mr. Keith Derting. Both went out of their way to make our job easier and the final product more complete and useful.

Finally, we need to thank the staff of Historic Charleston Foundation for the extraordinary amount of information contained in their Cooper River District nomination. A vast quantity of materials were made conveniently available, saving us considerable time and effort.

INTRODUCTION

Project Background

This work was conducted for Mr. Donnie Dukes, Davis and Floyd Engineers, by Dr. Michael Trinkley, with assistance from Mr. Todd Hejlik and Ms. Suzanne Coyle, of Chicora Foundation. Berkeley County is in the process of planning for the expansion of its wastewater facilities in what is called the Cooper River Zone Planning Area. Obviously there are a number of different expansion options. The goal of this study is to explore and describe the range of cultural resources[1] known for the immediate area in an effort to help guide the necessary expansion and promote choices, which cause the least impact to the area's cultural resources.

The study area was defined by Davis and Floyd and encompasses approximately 2,600 acres in southwest Berkeley County. The boundaries follow the Back River from its junction with the Cooper River northward to Chicken Creek, which it follows north-northeast to the East Branch of the Cooper River. It continues along the East Cooper southward, diverging at the junction of French Quarter Creek. About 1.5 miles south the boundary leaves French Quarter Creek and strikes out overland to the east, crossing Cainhoy Road (S-98) and following an irregular line just east of Gobel Swamp southward, crossing the French Quarter Creek about 0.8 mile south of Charity Church Road (S-99). It arcs southwestward eventually joining again with Clements Ferry Road about 0.8 mile north of St. Thomas Church. The study boundary then follows the road southward to the church, where it turns sharply to the west, meeting with the headwaters of Flag Creek, which it follows westward to the Cooper River. The boundaries are then defined as continuing up the Cooper River to the starting point (Figure 1).

This area incorporates several large industrial tracts, including Amoco, at its southern edge, on the marsh of the Cooper River north of Flag Creek, and Nucor, situated about in the center of the study tract, off Hagan Avenue.

In some cases this type of study is called a cultural resources review. Such studies are designed to briefly synthesize the current information to identify cultural resources that are, or may be, in the study area. They are not intended to be inclusive, or even to necessarily portray the entire range of archaeological and historical resources present. Most importantly, the sites which they do identify are never represented as being the only sites in the study area. Certainly in the case of this study it is likely that the actual number of sites is far greater — perhaps on the magnitude of 30 to 50 times — than those which have been recognized and reported thus far.

There are, of course, a broad range of information sources for cultural resource overviews. These include the inventories at the S.C. Department of Archives and History (SCDAH), the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA), previous environmental impact studies, cultural resource reports, interviews with land owners and avocational archaeologists, local historical organizations and historians, photographic archives, aerial photographs, and newspapers. Only a very few of these many potential

[1] Cultural resources include buildings, objects, locations, and structures that have scientific, historic, or cultural value. They represent traces of the past. We have elsewhere (Trinkley et al. 1995:4-5) suggested that a more appropriate term might be heritage resources. Although the term "cultural resources" is well established in the literature, it has also been co-opted by arts groups, basket weavers, quilt makers, and a broad range of other groups, to include folk art. We believe that this detracts from the meaning and significance of historic places. Nevertheless, we'll use the term "cultural resources" in this document.

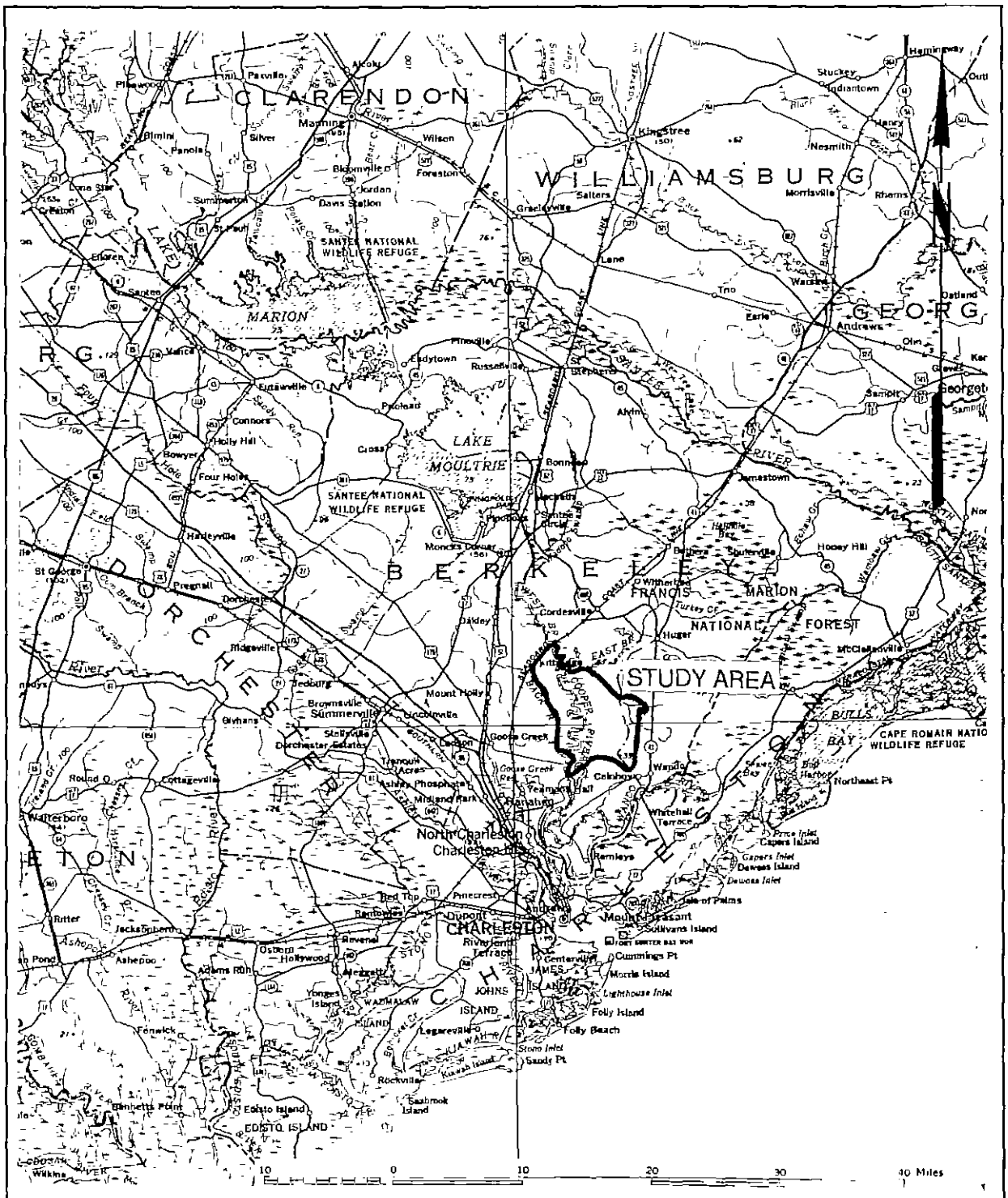


Figure 1. Location of the Cooper River Planning Area in Berkeley County (base map is USGS, State of South Carolina, 1:500,000.

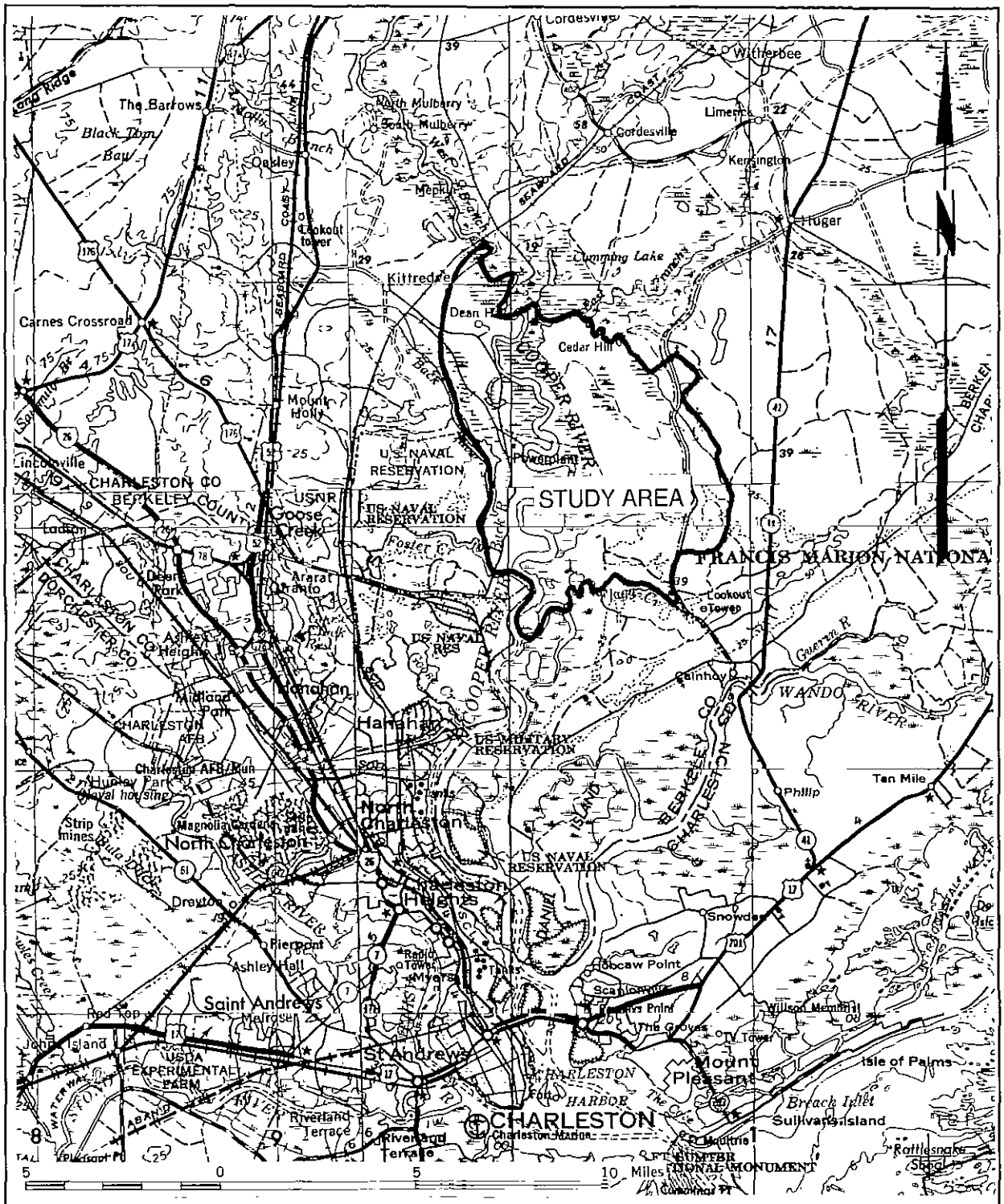


Figure 2. Boundaries of the Cooper River Zone Planning Area (base map includes USGS Augusta, Georgetown, Savannah, and James Island, 1:250,000).

resources were actually consulted for this study. In fact, we largely focused on the documentation available from the SCDAH and SCIAA. These sites lists, associated with a review of the previous larger studies in the project area comprise perhaps 95% of the results incorporated in this document.

Natural Environment

Berkeley County is situated in the lower Atlantic Coastal Plain of South Carolina. Containing about 1,100 square miles, it is bordered by Georgetown County to the northeast, Charleston County to the southeast and southwest, Dorchester County to the west, Orangeburg County to the northwest, and Clarendon and Williamsburg counties to the north.

The topography of the country is characterized by subtle undulation characteristic of beach ridge plains. The elevations range from sea level to approximately 105 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). In the vicinity of the study area the elevations range from about 5 to 50 feet AMSL. The topography is generally level although somewhat more rolling near the swamp drainages.

Berkeley is drained by three significant river systems: the Santee, Wando, and Cooper rivers. The Santee has a large freshwater discharge and forms the northern boundary with neighboring Georgetown County. The Wando is a coastal river, being dominated by tidal action. The Cooper River, which flows through the center of the County, was also originally a tidal river, but it has been modified by a large volume of fresh water diverted from the Santee through Lakes Marion and Moultrie. In addition, there are a number of broad, low-gradient interior drainages that are present either as extensions of tidal streams or flooded bays and swales.

Significant drainages in the study area include the Back, Cooper, and East Cooper rivers, and the Grove, Flag, French Quarter, and Freshing Lead creeks. In addition, the area includes a number of marsh areas, some associated with large rivers or creeks and others simply found in low interior swales or drainages.

As previously mentioned, Berkeley County is made up of one broad physiographic area, often called the lower Atlantic Coastal Plain or the Atlantic Coast Flatwoods. The surface soils are almost entirely sedimentary and were transported into the area from elsewhere. The geology of Berkeley County is characteristic of the region; the formations covering the surface date from the Pleistocene and include sands, clays, gravels, and phosphates.

Most of county is covered with broad areas of nearly level to gently sloping loamy to clayey soils. On the flood plains these soils are usually subjected to at least occasional, and often frequent, flooding. In fact, Long (1980:1) reveals that fully 95% of the soils in the county have excess water in their profiles. Major soil series include Meggett, Goldsboro, Bonneau, Craven, Wahee, Duplin, Bethera, and Tawcaw. The soils in lower Berkeley are part of the Wahee-Duplin-Lenoir association. They tend to be somewhat poorly to moderately well drained and have a loamy surface layer with a clayey subsoil.

Berkeley County has a subtropical climate, characterized by warm summers, mild winters, and adequate precipitation fairly evenly spread throughout the year. Except in the summer, when maritime tropical air controls the climate of the area, the daily weather patterns are controlled by west to east moving pressure systems and associated fronts.

Yearly precipitation averages 47 inches, but ranges from 39 to 55 inches. The growing season, from April to September, receives an average of 31 inches or about 66% of the yearly total. The average length of the freeze-free growing season is approximately 260 days, although frosts can occur as early as October 26 and as late as April 15 (Long 1980:46).

Mills remarked in 1826 that Carolina was similar to European climates, lying at a similar latitude. He noted that:

> in comparing the climate of South Carolina, with similar climates in Europe, we find it lying under the same atmospheric influences with Aix, Rochelle, Montpelier, Lyons, Bordeaux, and other parts of France;

> with Milan, Turin, Padua, Mantua, and other parts of Italy (Mills 1972 [1826]:133).

The coastal region is a moderately high risk zone for tropical storms, with 169 hurricanes being documented from 1686 to 1972 (0.59 per year) (Mathews et al. 1980:56). One of the most devastating in the eighteenth century was the hurricane of September 15, 1752. One report listed 92 people drowned, although the death toll, especially among the African American slaves was likely much higher. The storm also had considerable long-term effects and Calhoun notes that:

> the destruction of trees was severe; one plantation owner's loss was assessed at $50,000 and many of those trees which survived were "heart-shaken," and unfit for use. Crops were even more damaged as the storm followed a severe drought. It was necessary to enact laws to regulate the exportation and sale of corn, "Peafe," and small rice, so that "the poor may be able to purchase Provisions at a moderate . Price" (Calhoun 1983:9).

Speaking of the coastal plain Braun observed that:

> the vegetation of this region is in part warm temperate-subtropical, in part distinctively coastal plain, and in part temperate deciduous. It is made up of widely different forest communities - coniferous, mixed coniferous and hardwood, deciduous hardwood, and mixed deciduous and broad-leaved evergreen hardwood - interrupted here and there by swamps, bogs, and prairies. The large number of unlike communities is related to the diverse environmental conditions of the region (Braun 1974:282)

Indeed, an examination of the region around Berkeley County reveals tremendous diversity. One detailed study revealed a mosaic including the oak-hickory-pine forest common to upland areas, oak-gum-bald cypress forest typical of the southern floodplains, pine forests found in mesic to xeric upland sites, mesophytic broadleaved forests on more mesic slope sites, old rice fields, and a variety of swamp forests such as the tupelo-cypress, low hardwood, and ridge hardwoods (Federal Power Commission 1977). All of these forest types have different dominants and different understory vegetation (see Barry 1980).

Prehistoric and Historic Synthesis

The Prehistoric

The Paleo-Indian period, lasting from 12,000 to 8,000 B.C., is evidenced by basally thinned, side-notched projectile points; fluted, lanceolate projectile points, side scrapers, end scrapers; and drills (Coe 1964; Michie 1977; Williams 1968). The Paleo-Indian occupation, while widespread, does not appear to have been intensive. Artifacts are most frequently found along major river drainages, which Michie interprets to support the concept of an economy "oriented towards the exploitation of now extinct mega-fauna" (Michie 1977:124).

Unfortunately, little is known about Paleo-Indian subsistence strategies, settlement systems, or social organization. Generally, archaeologists agree that the Paleo-Indian groups were at a band level of society (see Service 1966), were nomadic, and were both hunters and foragers. While population density, based on the isolated finds, is thought to have been low, Walthall suggests that toward the end of the period, "there was an increase in population density and in territoriality and that a number of new resource areas were beginning to be exploited" (Walthall 1980:30).

The Archaic period, which dates from 8000 to 2000 B.C., does not form a sharp break with the Paleo-Indian period, but is a slow transition characterized by a modern climate and an increase in the diversity of material culture. Associated with this is a reliance on a broad spectrum of small mammals, although the white tailed deer was likely the most

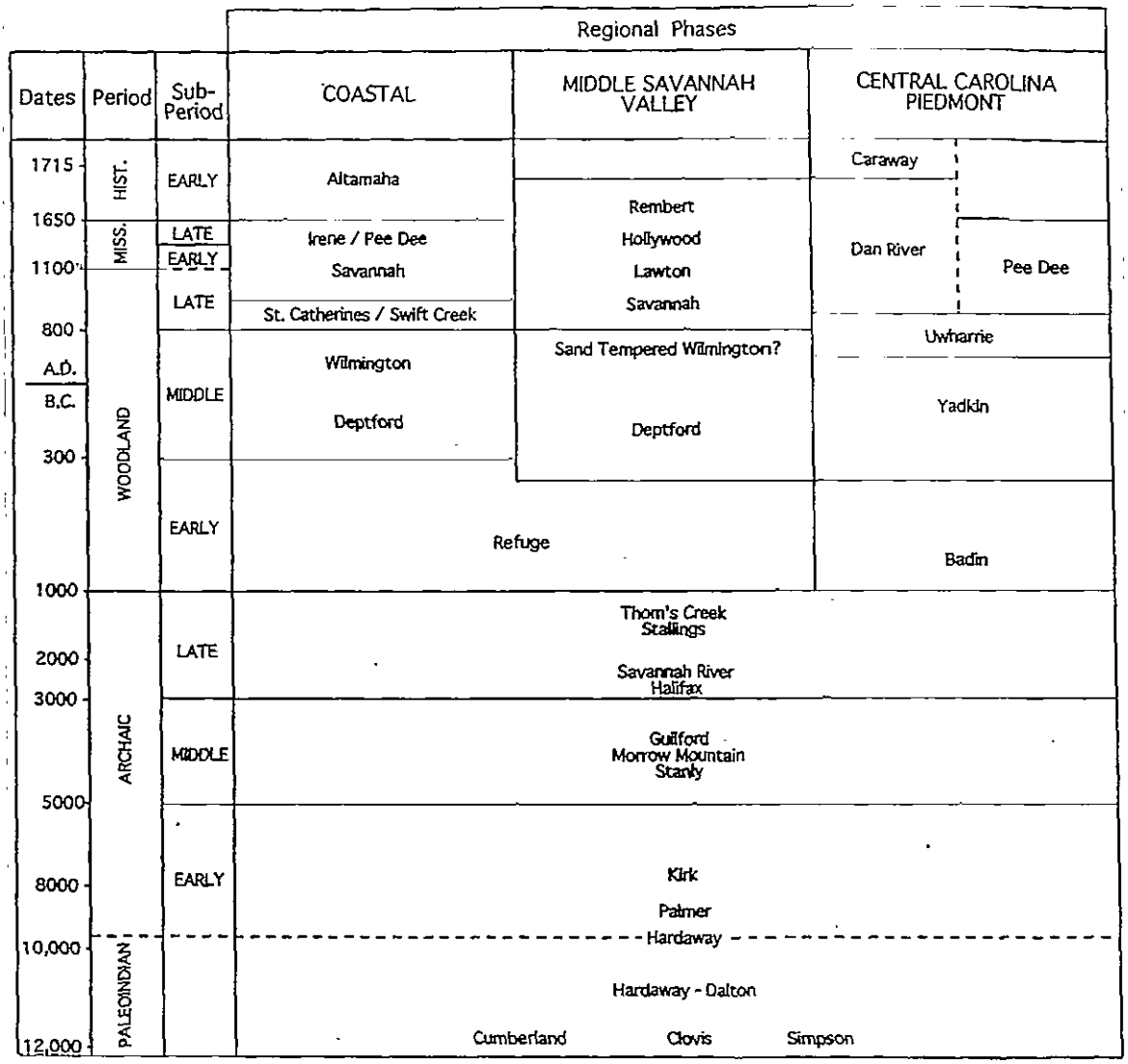


Figure 3. Cultural periods along the coast of South Carolina.

commonly exploited mammal. The chronology established by Coe (1964) for the North Carolina Piedmont may be applied with little modification to the South Carolina coastal plain and piedmont. Archaic period assemblages, exemplified by corner-notched and broad-stem projectile points, are fairly common, perhaps because the swamps and drainages offered especially attractive ecotones.

In the Coastal Plain of the South Carolina there is an increase in the quantity of Early Archaic remains, probably associated with an increase in population and associated increase in the intensity of occupation. While Hardaway and Dalton points are typically found as isolated specimens along riverine environments, remains from the following Palmer phase are not only more common, but are also found in both riverine and interriverine settings. Kirks are likewise common in the coastal plain (Goodyear et al. 1979).

The two primary Middle Archaic phases found in the coastal plain are the Morrow Mountain and Guilford (the Stanly and Halifax complexes identified by Coe are rarely encountered). Our best information on the Middle Woodland comes from sites investigated west of the Appalachian Mountains, such as the work in the Little Tennessee River Valley. The work at Middle Archaic river valley sites, with their evidence of a diverse floral and faunal subsistence base, seems to stand in stark contrast to Caldwell's Middle Archaic "Old Quartz Industry" of Georgia and South Carolina, where axes, choppers, and ground and polished stone tools are very rare.

The Late Archaic is characterized by the appearance of large, square stemmed Savannah River projectile points (Coe 1964). These people continued the intensive exploitation of the uplands much like earlier Archaic groups. The bulk of our data for this period, however, comes from work in the Uwharrie region of North Carolina.

The Woodland period begins by definition with the introduction of fired clay pottery about 2000 B.C. along the South Carolina coast (the introduction of pottery, and hence the beginning of the Woodland period, occurs much later in the Piedmont of South Carolina). It should be noted that many researchers call the period from about 2500 to 1000 B.C. the Late Archaic because of a perceived continuation of the Archaic lifestyle in spite of the manufacture of pottery. Regardless of terminology, the period from 2500 to 1000 B.C. is well documented on the South Carolina coast and is characterized by Stallings (fiber-tempered) pottery (see Figure 3 for a synopsis of Woodland phases and pottery designations). The subsistence economy during this early period was based primarily on deer hunting and fishing, with supplemental inclusions of small mammals, birds, reptiles, and shellfish.

Like the Stallings settlement pattern, Thom's Creek sites are found in a variety of environmental zones and take on several forms. Thom's Creek sites are found throughout the South Carolina Coastal Zone, Coastal Plain, and up to the Fall Line. The sites are found into the North Carolina Coastal Plain, but do not appear to extend southward into Georgia.

In the Coastal Plain drainage of the Savannah River there is a change of settlement, and probably subsistence, away from the riverine focus found in the Stallings Phase (Hanson 1982:13; Stoltman 1974:235-236). Thom's Creek sites are more commonly found in the upland areas and lack evidence of intensive shellfish collection. In the Coastal Zone large, irregular shell middens, small, sparse shell middens; and large "shell rings" are found in the Thom's Creek settlement system.

The Deptford phase, which dates from 1100 B.C. to A.D. 600, is best characterized by fine to coarse sandy paste pottery with a check stamped surface treatment. The Deptford settlement pattern involves both coastal and inland sites.

Inland, sites such as 38AK228-W, 38LX5, 38RD60, and 38BM40 indicate the presence of an extensive Deptford occupation on the Fall Line and the Coastal Plain, although sandy, acidic soils preclude statements on the subsistence base (Anderson 1979; Ryan 1972; Trinkley 1980b). These interior or upland Deptford sites, however, are strongly associated with the swamp terrace edge, and this environment is productive not only in nut masts, but also in large mammals such as deer. Perhaps the best data concerning Deptford "base camps" comes from the Lewis-West site

(38AK228-W), where evidence of abundant food remains, storage pit features, elaborate material culture, mortuary behavior, and craft specialization has been reported (Sassaman et al. 1990:96-98).

Throughout much of the Coastal Zone and Coastal Plain north of Charleston, a somewhat different cultural manifestation is observed, related to the "Northern Tradition" (e.g., Caldwell 1958). This recently identified assemblage has been termed Deep Creek and was first identified from northern North Carolina sites (Phelps 1983). The Deep Creek assemblage is characterized by pottery with medium to coarse sand inclusions and surface treatments of cord marking, fabric impressing, simple stamping, and net impressing. Much of this material has been previously designated as the Middle Woodland "Cape Fear" pottery originally typed by South (1976). The Deep Creek wares date from about 1000 B.C. to A.D. 1 in North Carolina, but may date later in South Carolina. The Deep Creek settlement and subsistence systems are poorly known, but appear to be very similar to those identified with the Deptford phase.

The Deep Creek assemblage strongly resembles Deptford both typologically and temporally. It appears this northern tradition of cord and fabric impressions was introduced and gradually accepted by indigenous South Carolina populations. During this time some groups continued making only the older carved paddle-stamped pottery, while others mixed the two styles, and still others (and later all) made exclusively cord and fabric stamped wares.

The Middle Woodland in South Carolina is characterized by a pattern of settlement mobility and short-term occupation. On the southern coast it is associated with the Wilmington phase, while on the northern coast it is recognized by the presence of Hanover, McClellanville or Santee, and Mount Pleasant assemblages. The best data concerning Middle Woodland Coastal Zone assemblages comes from Phelps' (1983:32-33) work in North Carolina. Associated items include a small variety of the Roanoke Large Triangular points (Coe 1964:110-111), sandstone abraders, shell pendants, polished stone gorgets, celts, and woven marsh mats. Significantly, both primary inhumations and cremations are found.

On the Coastal Plain of South Carolina, researchers are finding evidence of a Middle Woodland Yadkin assemblage, best known from Coe's work at the Doerschuk site in North Carolina (Coe 1964:25-26). Yadkin pottery is characterized by a crushed quartz temper and cord marked, fabric impressed, and linear check stamped surface treatments. The Yadkin ceramics are associated with medium-sized triangular points, although Oliver (1981) suggests that a continuation of the Piedmont Stemmed Tradition to at least A.D. 300 coexisted with this Triangular Tradition. The Yadkin series in South Carolina was first observed by Ward (1978, 1983) from the White's Creek drainage in Marlboro County, South Carolina. Since then, a large Yadkin village has been identified by DePratter at the Dunlap site (38DA66) in Darlington County, South Carolina (Chester DePratter, personal communication 1985) and Blanton et al. (1986) have excavated a small Yadkin site (38SU83) in Sumter County, South Carolina. Research at 38FL249 on the Roche Carolina tract in northern Florence County revealed an assemblage including Badin, Yadkin, and Wilmington wares (Trinkley et al. 1993:85-102). Anderson et al. (1982:299-302) offer additional typological assessments of the Yadkin wares in South Carolina.

Over the years the suggestion that Cape Fear might be replaced by such types as Deep Creek and Mount Pleasant has raised considerable controversy. Taylor, for example, rejects the use of the North Carolina types in favor of those developed by Anderson et al. (1982) from their work at Mattassee Lake in Berkeley County (Taylor 1984:80). Cable (1991) is even less generous in his denouncement of ceramic constructs developed nearly a decade ago, also favoring adoption of the Mattassee Lake typology and chronology. This construct, recognizing five phases (Deptford I - III, McClellanville, and Santee I), uses a type variety system.

Regardless of terminology, these Middle Woodland Coastal Plain and Coastal Zone phases continue the Early Woodland Deptford pattern of mobility. While sites are found all along the coast and inland to the Fall Line, shell midden sites evidence sparse shell and artifacts. Gone are the abundant shell tools, worked bone items, and clay balls. Recent investigations at Coastal Zone sites such as 38BU747

and 38BU1214, however, have provided some evidence of worked bone and shell items at Deptford phase middens (see Trinkley 1990).

In many respects the South Carolina Late Woodland may be characterized as a continuation of previous Middle Woodland cultural assemblages. While outside the Carolinas there were major cultural changes, such as the continued development and elaboration of agriculture, the Carolina groups settled into a lifeway not appreciably different from that observed for the previous 500 to 700 years (cf. Sassaman et al. 1990:14-15). This situation would remain unchanged until the development of the South Appalachian Mississippian complex (see Ferguson 1971).

The South Appalachian Mississippian Period (ca. A.D. 1100 to 1640) is the most elaborate level of culture attained by the native inhabitants and is followed by cultural disintegration brought about largely by European disease. The period is characterized by complicated stamped pottery, complex social organization, agriculture, and the construction of temple mounds and ceremonial centers. The earliest phases include the Savannah and Pee Dee (A.D. 1200 to 1550).

Historic Overview

The English established the first permanent settlement in what is today South Carolina in 1670 on the west bank of the Ashley River. Like other European powers, the English were lured to "new World" for reasons other than the acquisitions of land and promotion of agriculture. The Lords Proprietors, who owned the colony until 1719-1720, intended to discover a staple crop whose marketing would provide great wealth through the mercantile system.

By 1680 the settlers of Albermarle Point had moved their village across the bay to the tip of the peninsula formed by the Ashley and Cooper rivers. This new settlement at Oyster Point would become modern-day Charleston. The move provided not only a more healthful climate and an area of better defense, but:

> the situation of this Town is so convenient for public Commerce that it rather seems to be the design of some skillful Artist than the accidental position of nature (Mathews 1954:153).

The early settlers of the Carolina colony came from other mainland colonies, England, and the European continent. But the future of Carolina was largely directed by the large number of colonists from the English West Indies. This Caribbean connection has been discussed by Waterhouse (1975), who argues that the Caribbean immigrants were largely from old families of economic and political prominence which formed the Barbados élite. Waterhouse observes that while elsewhere in the American colonies the early settled families were displaced from their established positions of power and economic superiority by newcomers, this did not occur in South Carolina. In Carolina:

> a relatively large proportion of those who, in the middle of the eighteenth century, were among the wealthier inhabitants, were descended from those families who had arrived in the colony during the first twenty years of its settlement (Waterhouse 1975:280).

This immigration turned out to be a significant factor in the stability and longevity of South Carolina's colonial élite. It also firmly established the foundations of slavery and cash crop plantations.

Many of these Barbadian immigrants settled in the Goose Creek area, forming one of the most influential political and economic groups in the colony (Stoney 1938:19). The "Goose Creek Men" included individuals such as Maurice Mathews, James Moore and John Boone. They favored increased Indian slavery, trade with the pirates or privateers that sailed the Carolina coast, and generally ignored the efforts of the Lords Proprietors to control the Colony's economic and political future. While the political power of the Goose Creek faction peaked in the 1720s, it continued to evidence considerable economic power well into the late 1740s (see Morgan 1980; Sirmans 1966).

Early agricultural experiments which involved olives, grapes, silkworms, and oranges were less than successful. While the Indian trade was profitable to many of the Carolina colonies, it did not provide the Proprietors with the wealth they were expected from the new colony. This trade was also limited since the Indian population was so dramatically reduced by European disease, the sale of alcohol, and slavery.

Cattle raising also was an easy way to exploit the region's land and resources, offering a relatively secure return for very little capital investment. Few slaves were necessary to manage the herd. The mild climate of the low country made winter forage more abundant and winter shelters unnecessary. The salt marshes on the coast, useless for other purposes, provided excellent grazing and eliminated the need to provide salt licks. More interior swamps found similar vegetation and provided a constant water supply (Coon 1972; Dunbar 1961). Production of cattle, hogs, and sheep quickly outstripped local consumption and by the early eighteenth century beef and pork were principal exports of the Colony to the West Indies (Ver Steeg 1975:114-116). This allowed the ties between Carolina and the Caribbean to remain strong, and provided essential provisions to the large scale, single crop plantations.

Rice and indigo both competed for the attention of Carolina planters. Although introduced at least by the 1690s, rice did not become a significant staple crop until the early eighteenth century. At that time it not only provided the Proprietors with the economic base the mercantile system required, but it was also to form the basis of South Carolina's plantation system -- slavery.

South Carolina's economic development during the pre-Revolutionary War period involved a complex web of interactions between slaves, planters, and merchants. By 1710 slaves were starting to be concentrated on a few, large slave-holding plantations. By the close of the eighteenth century some South Carolina plantations had a ratio of slaves to whites that was 27:1 (Morgan 1977). And by the end of the century over half of eastern South Carolina's white population held slaves. With slavery came, to many, unbelievable wealth. Coclanis notes that:

> on the eve of the American Revolution, the white population of the low country was by far the richest single group in British North America. With the area's wealth based largely on the expropriation by whites of the golden rice and blue dye produced by black slaves, the Carolina low country had by 1774 reached a level of aggregate wealth greater than that in many parts of the world even today. The evolution of Charleston, the center of the low-country civilization, reflected not only the growing wealth of the area but also its spirit and soul (Coclanis 1989:7).

Only certain areas of the low country, however, were suitable for rice production. During the early years rice was grown as an upland crop, in small fields adjacent to freshwater streams where water could be easily impounded and applied to the crop. By the early 1700s planters found that upland swamps, such as those in the Goose Creek area, were even better suited for rice, although the soils were quickly exhausted (Meriwether 1940; Sellers 1934). These upland swamps, distinct from well-drained uplands, remained the focus of Carolina rice agriculture during the entire Colonial period.

Hewat, writing in 1779, describes the process of upland swamp rice cultivation:

> after the planter has obtained his tract of land, and built a house upon it, he then begins to clear his field of that load of wood with which the land is covered. Having cleared his field, he next surrounds it with a wooded fence, to exclude all hogs, sheep, and cattle from it. This field he plants with rice . . . year after year, until the lands are exhausted, or yield not a crop sufficient to answer his expectations. Then it is forsaken, and a fresh spot of land is cleared and planted, with is also treated in like

> manner, and in succession forsaken and neglected (Hewatt 1836:514).

This rather simplistic commentary failed to observe the engineering feat that upland swamp rice cultivation really was. Clearing, which alone was a monumental undertaking, was followed by the construction of dams, dikes, and trenches. By one estimate, a 500 acre rice field required 60 miles of dikes and ditches (Gunn 1976:1-16). Fields were carefully leveled to ensure that they could be completely covered by water. Rice was planted during two periods -- March 10 to April 10 and June 1 to June 10 -- avoiding May since vast migrations of "rice birds" passed through the state during that period and could destroy a crop. Rice was harvested in late August.

By 1730 the majority of the population of the colony, both rural and urban, was black (Wood 1974). By 1850, 46% of Charleston District's population (which included today's Berkeley County) consisted of African American slaves (DeBow 1854:302), although Hilliard (1984:37) indicates that more than 60% of the Charleston slaveholders by 1860 owned fewer than 10 slaves. Regardless, there remained vast plantations where the owner's wealth was achieved by the labor of black slaves.

During the eighteenth century the profits to be gained from rice were extraordinary, ranging from a 12% to nearly 28% net return on the investment, well exceeding other cash crops, such as tobacco or indigo (see Coclanis 1989:141). Charleston was the mecca around which the economic, political, and social world of Carolina revolved. Charleston provided the essential opportunity for conspicuous consumption, a mechanism which allowed the display of wealth accumulated from the plantation system.

By the end of the eighteenth century, beginning of the nineteenth century, the rate of return on rice had been reduced, at best, to about 2%, and many years the rate of return was a staggering -3% to -7%. In 1859, just before the Civil War, the return is reported to have been -28%. As Coclanis observes:

> the economy of the South Carolina low country collapsed in the nineteenth century. Collapse did not come suddenly - many feel, for example, that the area's "golden age" lasted until about 1820 - but come it did nonetheless. By the late nineteenth century it was clear that the forces responsible for the area's earlier dynamism had been routed, the dark victory of economic stagnation virtually complete (Coclanis 1989:111).

The Study Area in Maps

The development of the Cooper River Zone Planning Area can also be traced by examining a few of the many maps which show this part of South Carolina. For example, Maurice Mathews' *Carte Particuliere de la Caroline*, first published about 1685 (Figure 4), reveals that the study tract was still largely unsettled wilderness. Only four settlements are shown on the map, including "Mr. Hulls Land," just below the junction of the East and West Branches of the Cooper River, Potrin and Davies to the east, and what appears to be "Mr. Hanby and Co. between the Back and Cooper rivers. This last individual may actually be John Hanbury, whose will was proved in London in 1702 with a considerable Carolina estate (Lesser 1995:350).

Figure 5 illustrates a portion of Mouzon's *An Accurate Map of North and South Carolina*, from 1776. Even by this time the study area is shown as relatively isolated. In fact, the only settlement shown is Lanes, at the northern edge of the study area.

Into the 1820s more settlement begins to be illustrated. Wilson's 1822, *A Map of South Carolina*, focuses more on topography and roads, revealing that the area consists of "islands" of higher sandy soils interspersed with marsh and creeks. Although the river system remained the main access, a road is shown on the eastern edge of the study area, bisecting St. Thomas Parish and leading to Charleston. It is on this road that the parish church was located (Figure 6). Mills' Atlas for what was then Charleston District, shows the study area, although clearly few of the planters subscribed the

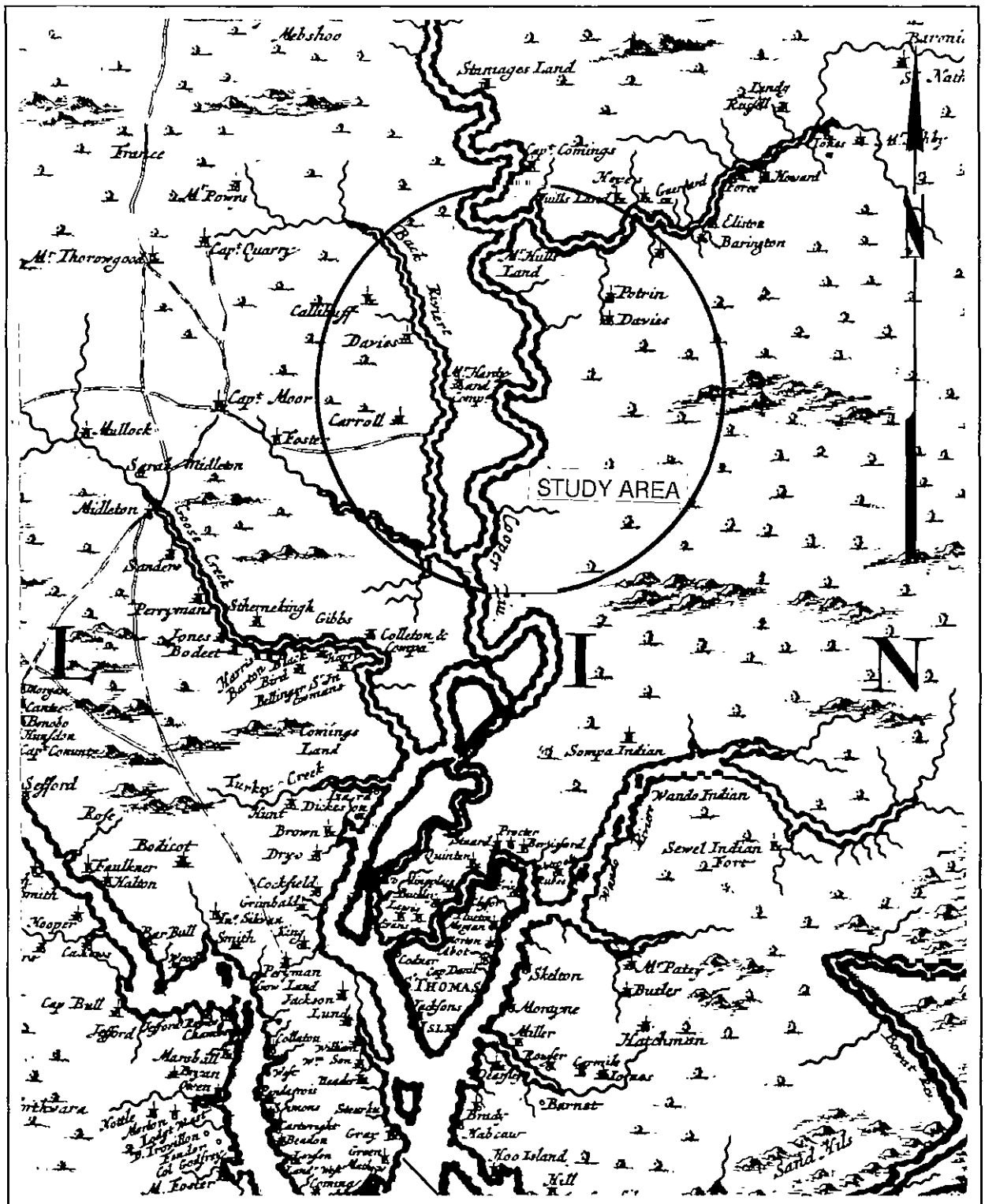


Figure 4. A portion of Mathews' ca. 1685 *Carte Particuliere de la Caroline* showing the project area.

Figure 5. A portion of Mouzon's 1775 *An Accurate Map of North and South Carolina* showing the project area.

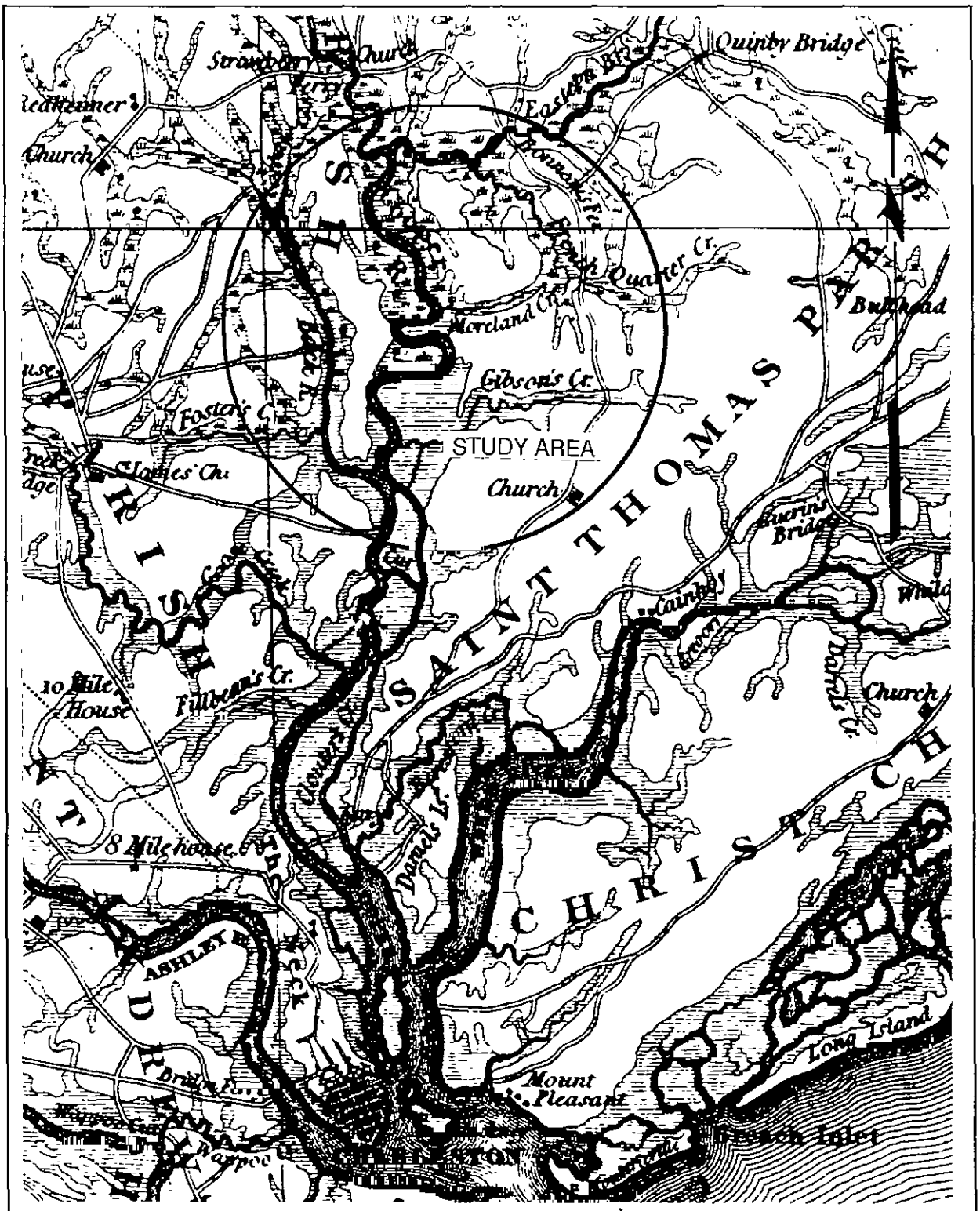


Figure 6. A portion of Wilson's 1822 *A Map of South Carolina* showing the project area.

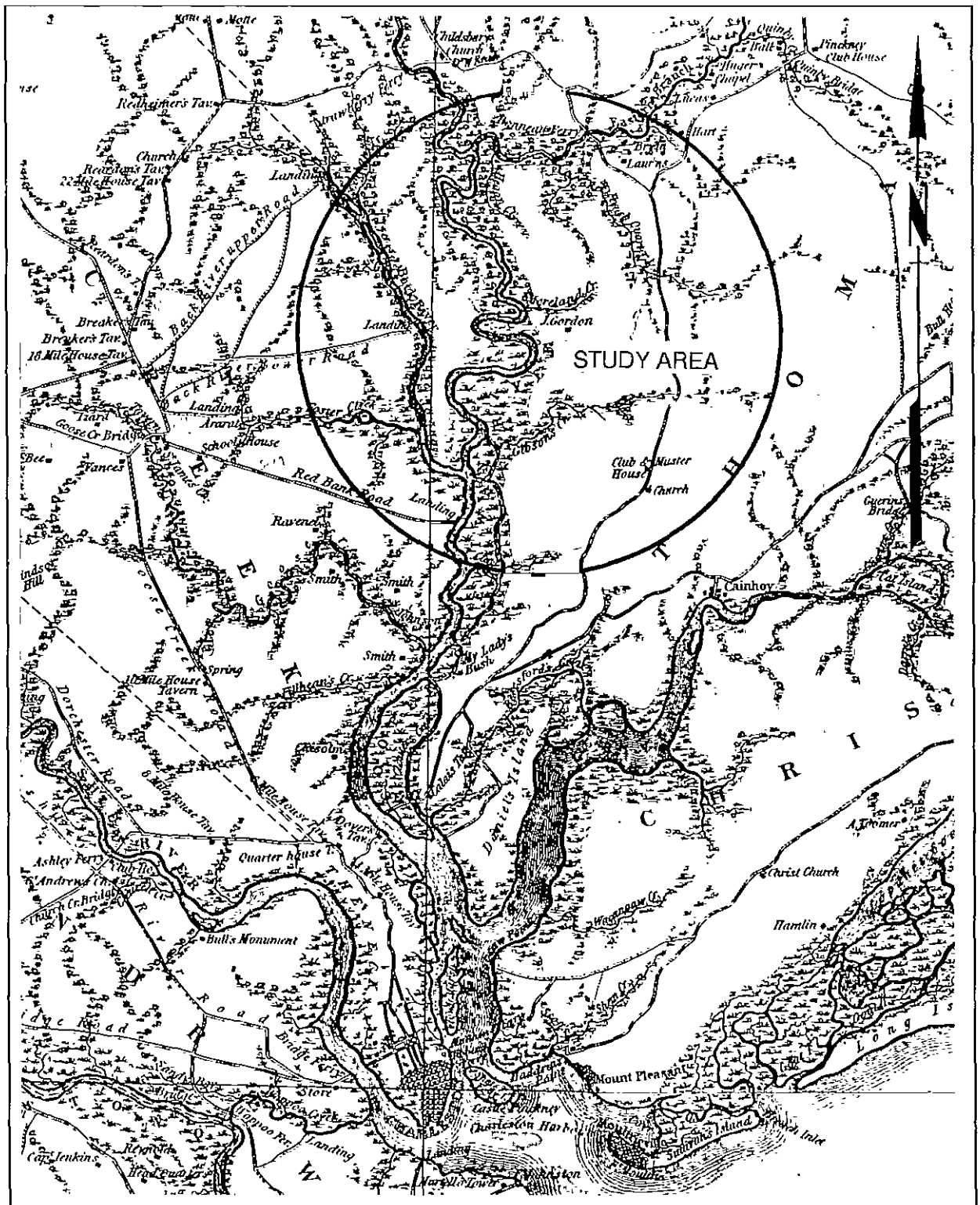
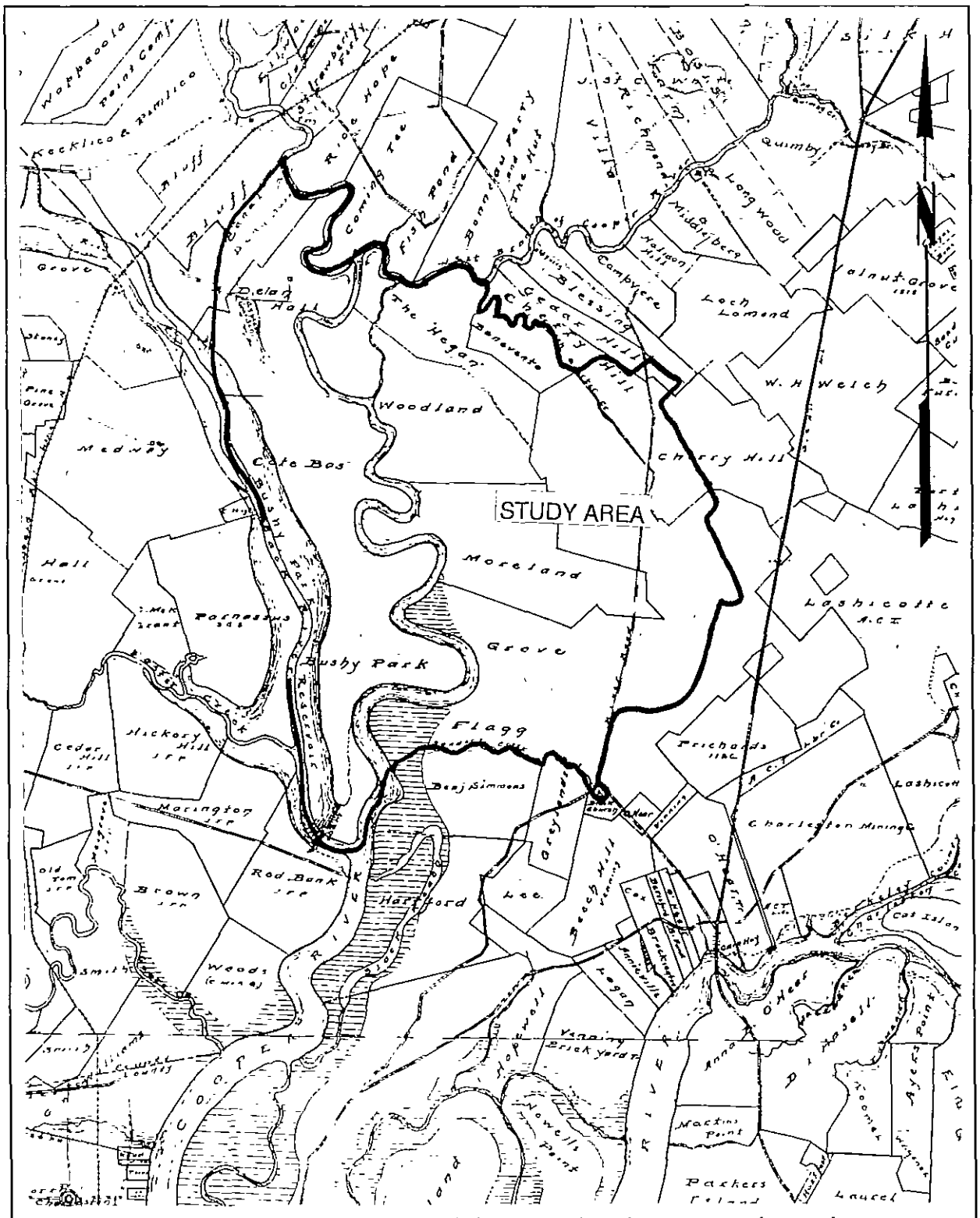


Figure 7. A portion of Mills' 1825 *Charleston District* showing the project area.


STUDY AREA
Woodland
Moreland
Grove
Flagg
Bushy Park
Cote Bos
Medway
Hall
Cherry Hill
W. H Welch
Loch Lomond
Walnut Grove
Lashicotte
Hackory Hill
Brown
Red Bank
Hartford
Lee
Macington
Woods
Smith
Trichards
Charleston Mining
Quimby
Long Wood
Middleberg
Campbyere
Delaf Hall
The Hogan
Benevento
Grace
Blessing
Bonneau Ferry
The Hut
Rice Hope
Coming Tee
Fish Pond
Bluff
Rocklico & Hamlico
Wappaola
Point Comf
Grey
Beach Hill
Vanaing Brick yard
Howells Point
Mackins Point
Packers Island
Laurel
Ayers Point
Cox Island
Lashicon
Bushy Park Reservoir
Cedar Hill
Old Tom
Smith
Beaj Simmons
Pinehurst
Brickyard
Pinehurst
Cox
Bonneau
Ferry
Hut
Bluff
Grove
Stony
Pine Grove
Hall
Medway
Cote Bos
Bushy Park
Flagg
Woodland
Moreland
Cherry Hill
Lashicotte
Grove
Hackory Hill
Cedar Hill
Macington
Brown
Red Bank
Hartford
Lee

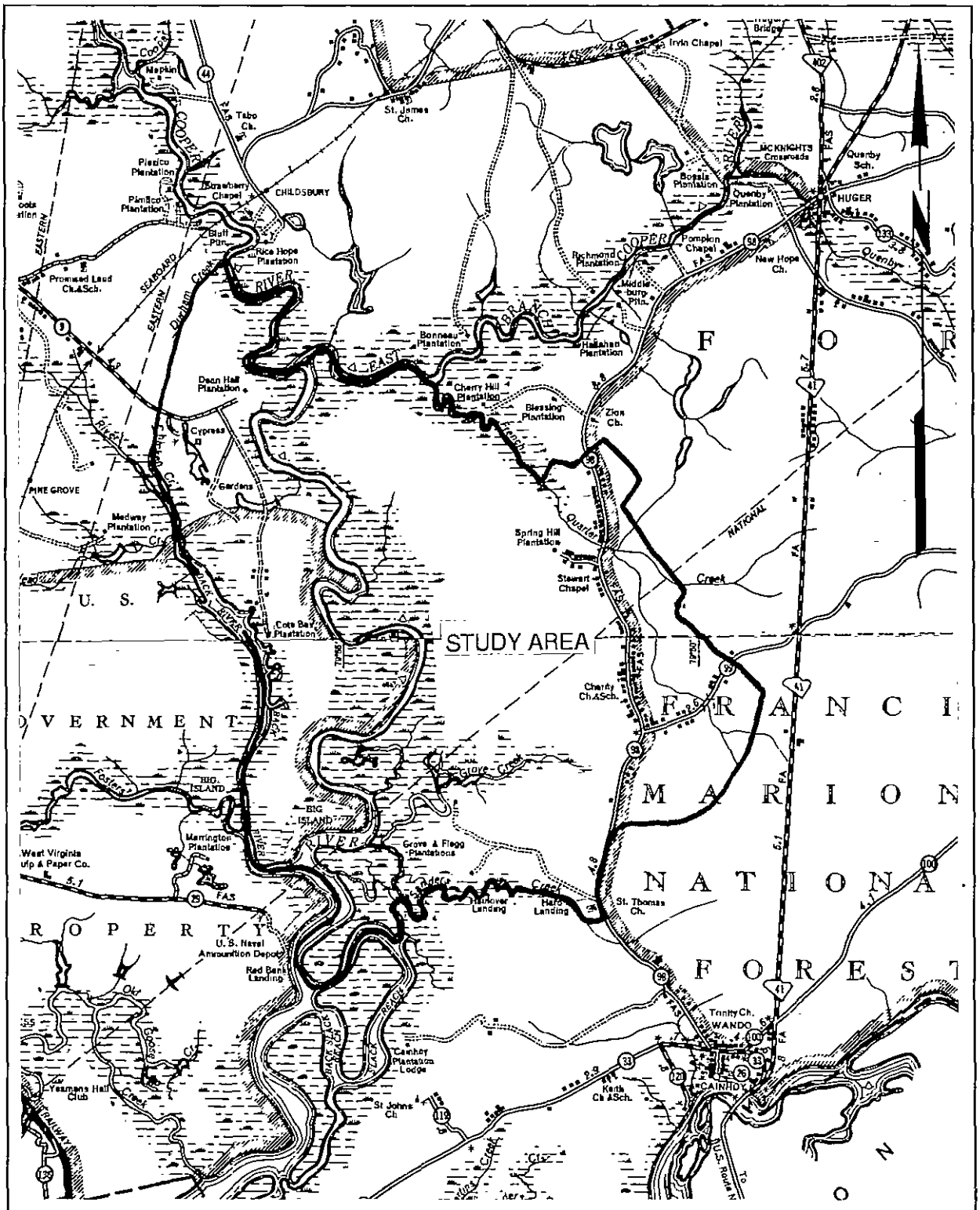


Figure 9. A portion of the 1951 *General Highway and Transportation Map of Berkeley County* showing the project area.

to the atlas. The only buildings shown are the Church and the "Club and Muster House," both on the road which is today Cainhoy Road (Figure 7).

By the turn of the century Figure 8 reveals that the study area was recognized as including at least portions of Grove, Flagg, Moreland, Woodland, The Hagan, Benevento, Dean Hall, Bluff, Cote Bos, and Bushy Park plantations. Many of these names continued to be used into the first half of the twentieth century (Figure 9), including Dean Hall, Cote Bas, and Grove and Flagg plantations. Added were Cypress Gardens, Spring Hill, as well as Charity Church and School and Stewart Chapel. In addition, a number of houses had been built on Cainhoy Road, by this time designated S-98.

COOPER RIVER HISTORIC DISTRICT AND ASSOCIATED SITES

The Cooper River Historic District, developed by Historic Charleston Foundation in conjunction with SCDAH, is an extremely diverse collection of cultural resources associated with approximately 45 miles of the Cooper River. The proposed district covers around 80,000 acres. It is described by Chandler as including:

> both the river's East and West branches, as well as that of the Back River, a tidal tributary running roughly parallel and to the west of the main Cooper River channel. At the head of the West Branch, the district's most northern point, is the Jefferies Hydroelectric Plant and Navigation Lock at the Pinopolis Dam on Lake Moultrie (ca. 1940), one of the Santee-Cooper Project's . . . centerpieces located just to the north of the Town of Moncks Corner. This segment of the river extends for some seventeen miles southward and includes the Tail Race Canal (ca. 1940), the Old Santee Canal bed (1793-1800), and on either bank of the river a relatively intact collection of eighteenth and nineteenth century rice plantations . . ., parish churches . . ., at least one historic road . . ., and the town of Cordesville. The proposed district also encompasses approximately eight miles of the East Branch with its appendant French Quarter, Huger, and Quinby creeks, and the surrounding plantation complexes and rice fields . . ., and network of roads (including most prominently Clements Ferry Road). Pompion Hill Chapel, a chapel of ease for St. Thomas Parish, is nestled between Middleburg and Longwood plantations where it rises from a bluff on the south bank (area known as the Orange or French Quarter) of this branch of the river. The East branch reaches in a slightly northeastward direction to Limerick Plantation and the Huger Bridge (ca. 1935) on S.C. Highway 402. Below the confluence of the East and West branches, a location known as "The Tee," the Cooper River continues southward for approximately twenty miles to the Charleston harbor. The boundaries for the proposed historic district do not extend quite so far south; however, they do include the former rice plantations within much of the present-day U.S. Naval Reservation property on the back River and Foster Creek . . ., those between the Cooper and Back Rivers . . ., and those to the west of the Back River . . . . The southern boundary on the west side of the Cooper River begins at the mouth of Goose Creek or the Berkeley-Charleston county line, and includes Yeaman's Hall Club (formerly Yeaman's Hall Plantation), while that on the east side of the river follow the U.S. Naval Reservation property line near the mouths of Clouter and Yellow House creeks and includes Cainhoy Plantation to the east of Back Slack Reach, as well as The Grove and Moreland plantations further north.

> Cainhoy and Clements Ferry roads, the latter of which makes it way by the Parish Church of St. Thomas and St. Denis (White Church), essentially form the southeastern and eastern boundaries, while S.C. Highway 402, the Francis Marion National Forest, and Strawberry Ferry Road provide logical and justifiable boundaries for the quadrant above the East Branch. The town of Monks Corner, old U.S. Highway 52, and the western property lines of Spring Grove, Pine Grove, and Medway plantations roughly outline the western boundaries for the district (Chandler 1997:1).

The proposed district boundaries in the vicinity of the Cooper River Zone Planning Area are shown in Figure 10.

Brief Statement of Significance

The National Register nomination for the Cooper River District observes that:

> This 150 square mile area includes more than 70,000 acres. Within its bounds lay the oldest rural dwellings in South Carolina, a vast concentration of archaeological sites, and an agricultural and industrial history that serves as a paradigm for the development of the entire Lowcountry of South Carolina. The proposed Cooper River Historic District is a smaller area of the whole, which includes 164 above-ground historic sites/resources and 81 archaeological sites which contribute directly to this nomination.
>
> This largely intact collection of buildings, sites, structures, objects and landscape features have been and continue to be associated with the river itself and illustrate the continuing use and occupation of the area from the early settlement patterns of the late seventeenth century (ca. 1680) to the changing uses of the landscape in the early decades of the twentieth century (ca. 1940). The agricultural character of the region from naval stores to rice and indigo and later to hunting and tree farming was imposed on the natural setting and in turn produced a unique cultural landscape through the period of significance. The Cooper River Historic District meets all of the National Register criteria and is significant as a natural, historical and cultural landscape (Saunders and Poston 1998).

As such the district is of concern not only because of its size, but also because such districts can be impacted by a broad range of development pressures. It is essential that development activities be evaluated not only on the basis of direct impact to specific and potential sites, but also in terms of secondary impacts. For example, although the proposed sewer construction may not affect any known archaeological or historical sites, what type of development will its construction allow to follow in the foreseeable future?

Moreover, development activities should also examine what impact they will have on the landscape itself, rather than simply on the resources as physical entities. For example, an industrial plant may be sited in a manner to avoid impact to significant historical and archaeological sites, but its presence on the river side forever alters the landscape. Its need to fill wetlands or create bridges, again, dramatically changes the landscape which this nomination points out is a significant portion of the low country's history.

Consequently, this district is of exceptional importance to the evaluation of any proposed development activities within virtually all of the Cooper River Zone Planning Area. It is essential that all activities be evaluated in light of this district and its

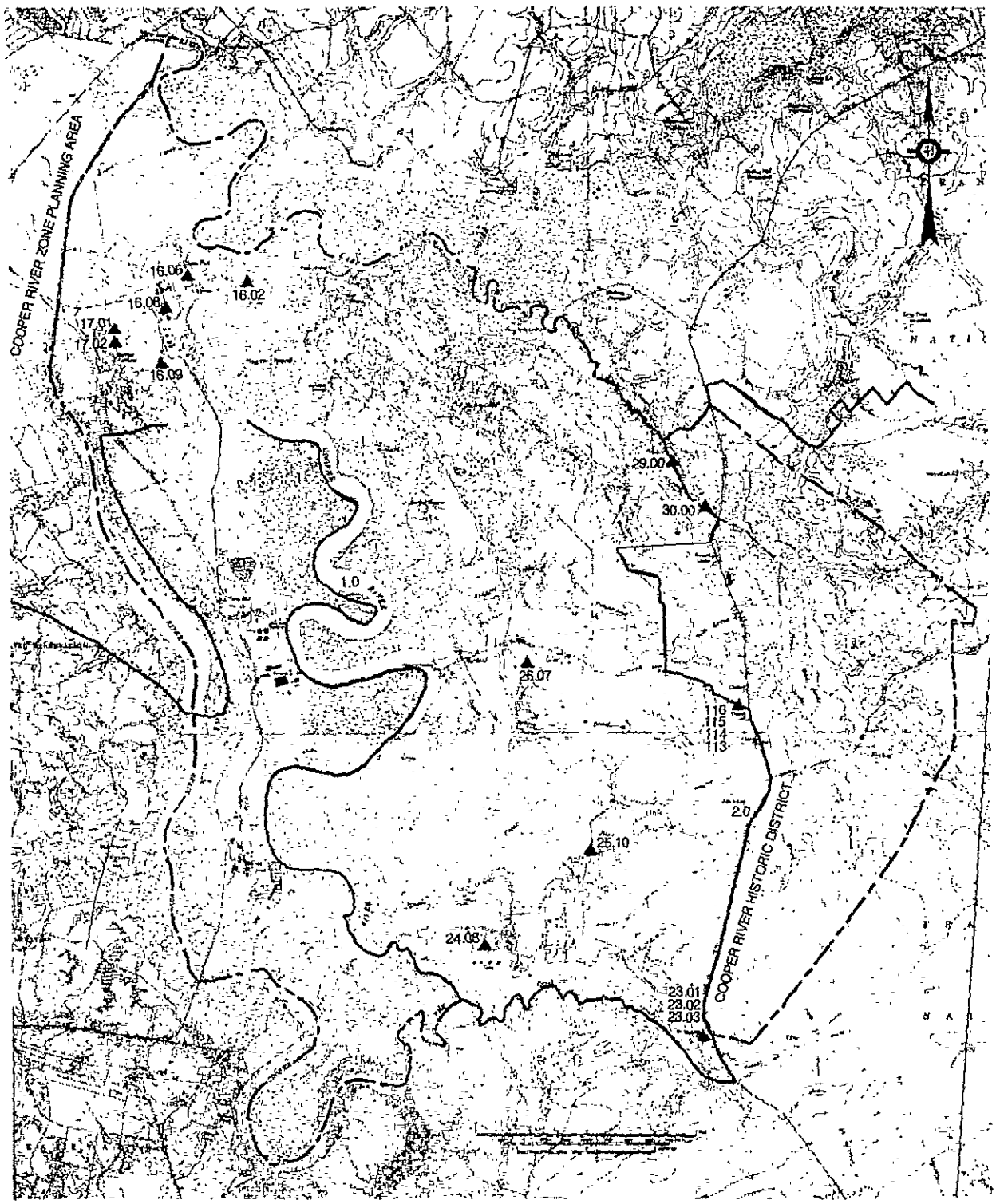


Figure 10. The portion of the Cooper River Historic District in the immediate vicinity of the Cooper River Zone Planning Area.

significance.

Individual Historic Sites

At least 12 historic site complexes are incorporated as specific resources into the proposed district (see Figure 10). These include the river, a road, seven plantations, a church, and two historic houses; each is briefly described below.

Cooper River (Site 1.0) — the district includes about 45 linear miles of river system, including sections of both the East and West Branches, as well as a portion below their divergence at the "Tee."

Road to Calais (Site 2.0) — This is one of the earliest inland routes between the Cooper River settlements and the port city of Charleston. While the Dover-Calais ferry system wasn't established until 1793, the road itself is probably even earlier.

Dean Hall Plantation Complex (Site 16.01 - 16.07) — This includes the Dean Hall plantation site (38BK71), the associated rice fields, the rice trunk archaeological site (38BK858UW), the plantation landing (38BK165UW), an associated underwater archaeological site (38BK165UW), the magnolia avenue, and the Cabin archaeological site (38BK1767). Although the 1827 plantation house was moved from the site during the 1970s, the archaeological remains are intact and considered of exceptional value. Likewise, the associated rice fields and underwater sites are in near pristine condition.

Cypress Gardens (Site 17.01 - 17.02) — This 162 acre park was developed in 1910 from the former rice fields of Dean Hall Plantation.

St. Thomas and St. Denis Church Complex (Site 23.01 - 23.03) — The church building was constructed in 1819, although the associated cemetery dates at least from 1782.

Flagg Plantation Complex (Site 24.01 - 24.06) — Flagg Planation is well documented, both historically and archaeologically. It was a major producer of bricks in the nineteenth century and there are a number of buildings known to exist. The complex includes five terrestrial sites (including two landings, 38BK150 and 38BK152; brick kiln, 38BK148; the main settlement, 38BK149; and an associated structure, 38BK153) and one underwater site (38BK605UW).

Grove Plantation Complex (Site 25.01 - 25.11) — This plantation also contains an exceptional range of industrial sites associated with the history of the Cooper River area. Included are several tar kilns (38BK201, 38BK1751, 38BK1753), as well as what may be the main plantation complex (38BK146). There are an additional seven sites, including the plantation cemetery, associated with this complex.

Moreland Plantation Complex (Site 26.01 - 26.06) — This plantation, historically owned by the Huger and Bennett families, is today within a portion of an industrial development. Present are five terrestrial archaeological sites, including the main plantation complex (38BK1731) and an underwater site at the plantation landing (38BK187UW). The settlement appears to date from the eighteenth through nineteenth centuries.

Akinfield Plantation Site (Site 27.00) — Akinfield was part of the Huger family holdings during the antebellum period. The site has been recognized as archaeological site 38BK1790.

Hagan Plantation Complex (Site 28.01 - 28.02) — Hagan was owned by the Hugers during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, although it is today part of an industrial site. The site is identified through archaeological sites of the main house complex (38BK183) and the plantation's landing (38BK163UW).

Howard Jacob House (Site 29.00) — This dwelling dates from about 1915 and was built by an African-American carpenter and farmer. It is significant as an example of local vernacular architecture.

Julius Ladson House (Site 30.00) — This structure as also built by a local black, about 1931.

It is clearly understood by the authors of the proposed district that the sites thus far identified

represent only a small number of the resources likely to be present in the area. For example, although 200 archaeological sites are known for the area, it is likely that this represents only the "tip of the iceberg," since a very large percentage of the proposed district has never been subjected to anything approaching a careful, methodical survey or evaluation.

It is also useful to again point out the range of resources included in the district — archaeological sites, standing structures, industrial objects and sites, as well and historic landscapes. Moreover, the district incorporates both above ground, subsurface, and underwater resources.

It is critical that any development activities in this region take into account this district and work to mitigate both direct, and indirect or secondary, impacts to its diverse resources.

PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Although the proposed 80,000 acre Cooper River Historic District incorporates 212 known archaeological sites, the Cooper River Zone Planning Area contains 129 sites, ranging from prehistoric camps to the ruins of early twentieth century tenant house sites. The archaeological diversity of the study area is exceptional, providing a glimpse of almost the totality of South Carolina coastal archaeological heritage.

Of course not all archaeological sites are significant — or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places — but that determination can be made only after the site has been identified and evaluated. Clearly, however, the study area is rich in archaeological resources and virtually any project which incorporates much acreage is likely to encounter one or more sites.

The range of questions these sites can address is exceptional. While some archaeologists have attempted to force the discourse regarding significance of historic sites into issues such as the idealogy of racism or the impact of the industrial revolution on slave holders, it is likely that often the "common man on the street" is likely to be far more interested in what these sites can tell us about the people who came before us: what was life like, how did people live, what did they eat, what were their houses like, what did slaves do on the plantation, and so forth. It would be a mistake to ignore such common questions.

It would be a similarly significant mistake to dismiss historic sites believing that historic documents can provide equal or better resources. Most plantations in the study area produce few or no historic documents. Account books, diaries, ledgers, and receipts have been lost, burned, or were simply not kept in most cases. It is even impossible, in many cases, to identify plats of the plantations to explore land use and landscape issues. Where documentary materials are available they most frequently focus on economic issues: how much did a slave cost, how much was made off the planted crop, how much was spent on maintaining the slaves. Rarely do the accounts provide much information on the planter's daily life and even rarer are accounts of slave activities.

Looking at prehistoric sites we encounter many of the same issues. Although there are a host of higher level research questions, we discover that even simple questions, such as what kinds of houses did the Indians build, or what types of pottery were made by the different groups, are often very difficult to answer with any precision.

This isn't intended to suggest that nothing is known about our prehistoric and historic heritage, but only that what is know continues to be overshadowed by what is left to learn. And again we may find that the questions the public is often interested in are far more simply stated than many of the research designs developed by archaeologists.

Sampling of Previous Surveys and Results

There have been a very large number of archaeological studies conducted in the Berkeley County area. Syntheses of many are provided by other researchers, such as Adams (1990) and Anderson et al. (1982). Only a few of the more recent studies will be briefly mentioned in this overview.

Although work in the late 1970s was sporadic and not always of a uniform quality, surveys such as those conducted by the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at the Grove and Flagg plantations (Hartley and Stephenson 1975) began to reveal the complexity of the historic settlement in the region, while investigations such as that undertaken by Brooks and Scurry (1978) continue to be quoted for its exceptional documentation of prehistoric settlement criteria. The later, for example, reveals that while soil types are good *general* indicator of site probability, there

are archaeological sites located on poorly drained soils. This, the authors point out, indicates that factors other than simply drainage, likely played some role in selecting camp sites.

Other studies, undertaken at about the same time, continued to reveal the complexity — and density — of sites in what we are considering as the Cooper River Zone Planning Area. Wood's (1977) examination of a transmission line from Mount Pleasant to the Cooper River area, revealed the diversity of the study area. Her work revealed the presence of both prehistoric (including perhaps contact period) and historic settlements. Although a reconnaissance survey by Lees and Michie (1978) failed to reveal the same density of sites, it nevertheless documented the range of sites that might be expected, suggesting that virtually any development on swamp margins would be likely to impact prehistoric sites.

In the early 1980s Limerick Plantation was also briefly investigated. The plantation, created in 1707, was owned by the Ball family from 1764 until about 1891 (Lees 1980). Investigations concentrated on the main house (Lees 1980) where the architecture of the main house was the focus of the research. Additional effort was devoted to the exploration of the changing settlement pattern at the site. Later, additional research was devoted to nearby sites associated with the plantation. Most of this activity was devoted to the Tanner Road site, where Babson (1988) sought to examine the site's ethnicity and function.

During the mid-1980s Ferguson and Babson (1986) used historic plats to identify the range of plantation sites on the East Branch of the Cooper River. This study revealed about 250 buildings associated with 18 plantations. What is curious is that despite the extraordinary density of the individual settlements examined in this work, archaeologists continue to document only a very small handfull of the structures likely to be present on any plantation complex.

Also during the mid-1980s there were a number of surveys conducted on U.S. Forest Service property in the immediate area. For example, Pasquill (1983) comments on both the ubiquity of tar kiln sites in the area, as well as the occasional identification of small graveyards. This work also reveals issues concerning the fragility of many sites — such as cemeteries — and how often they may be either damaged or destroyed by development activities. Another survey (Pasquill 1984), again reveals how common tar kilns are, although questions regarding eligibility might well be revisited in light of more recent issues concerning historic significance. His research also reveals the range of small prehistoric sites which are typically located on sandy ridges in the ridge and swale topography of the flat woods. Also of interest is the revelation concerning how many sites, both known and unknown, were being impacted by mechanized timber harvesting — providing one of the earliest insights into the rapid destruction of the area's cultural heritage.

One of the few investigations along French Quarter Creek was conducted in 1990 just southeast of the study area. The resources encountered in the examination seem generally typical of the area and included a small tar kiln, a scatter of late nineteenth century remains, as well as a much earlier historic site and a large prehistoric site (Poplin 1990). It seems likely that even where well defined banks overlooking flowing water aren't present, the sandy ridges adjacent to swampy lowlands were attractive to both prehistoric and historic occupation.

Several studies of the property around Nucor Steel were conducted in the mid-1990s (Rust and Poplin 1995a, 1995b, 1995c). One of the most common sites identified continued to be tar kilns. In spite of the large number being encountered — and presumably destroyed by development — only a very few have ever been investigated. Most are dismissed because the sites have been studied in the past, or have produced few artifacts, or have been disturbed by logging. It seems rather important that these sites begin to be more carefully examined — certainly the sparseness of artifacts is not, by itself, adequate to dismiss the site as insignificant. It is also unlikely to find sites in this part of the low country that haven't been damaged to some degree by logging, so it seem inappropriate to use this feature as the sole criteria. It seems that the real issue is whether the previous investigations — conducted several decades ago — have in fact obtained all the information that can possibly be garnered from these

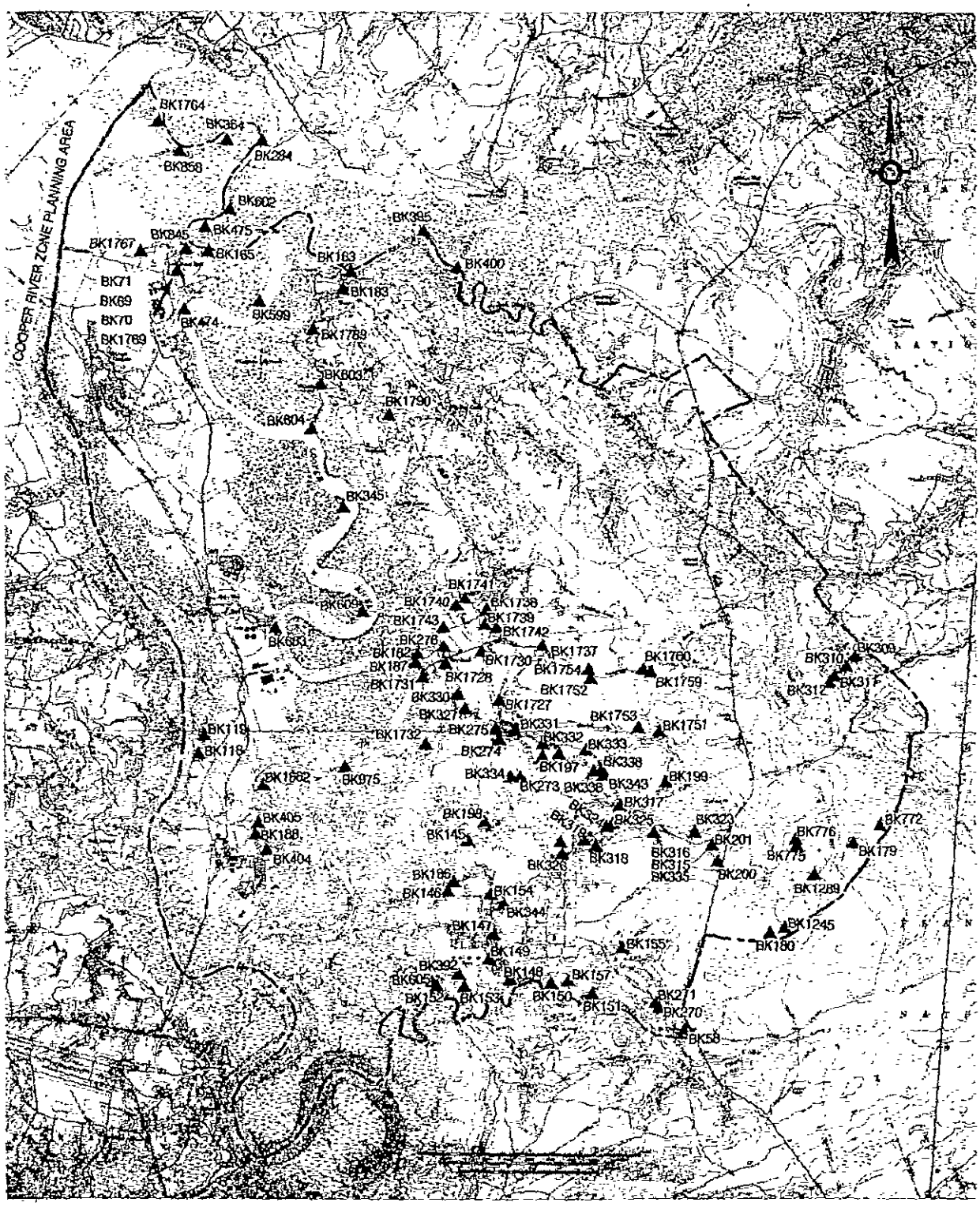


Figure 11. Archaeological sites known to exist in the Cooper River Zone Planning Area (source: SCIAA site files).

sites.

Other remains found in the area of Nucor's Hagan Point included the remains of Moreland Plantation, as well as a broad range of Archaic and Woodland prehistoric sites. The plantation site included structural remains, a brick kiln, landing and wharf remains, as well as several underwater archaeological sites (Rust and Poplin 1995a).

Identified Sites in the Project Area

Table 1 provides a list of all sites currently known to be within the Cooper River Zone Planning Area (shown in Figure 11). Where possible information has been provided to help the reader better understand the time period and remains which are associated with each site.

This figure and the accompanying table should be very carefully interpreted. It is critical that planners understand that the map shows only currently identified and recorded sites. Only a very small portion of the study area has actually been subjected to intensive archaeological investigation. As a result, it is probable that there are a large number of additional archaeological and historical sites in the region which are not shown on this map. Many of these currently unidentified sites are likely to be significant. As a result, this map offers only a representation of the density of sites and the variety of sites.

Surveys in the vicinity of the Cooper River Zone Planning Area have produced a range of archaeological materials, including prehistoric sites dating from about 7,000 B.C. through about A.D. 1500. While some shell may occasionally be associated with these sites most are found in well drained, sandy soils, often on ridges overlooking the swamps, but have no other visually distinctive features. They are generally invisible until detected through archaeological survey, typically using shovel testing. Sites include both small scatters, perhaps representing only camps of short duration, to much larger and at times amorphous scatters, perhaps sites repeatedly occupied on a seasonal basis. In many cases we can speculate that it was the adjacent swamp and its associated "edge effect" or ecotone which made the area so attractive.

Historic sites exhibit an equally diverse range of occupation. Archaeological studies have documented settlements ranging from the eighteenth through twentieth centuries, although additional work is still needed to discover many of the even earlier seventeenth century settlements in this area of South Carolina. Most of the historic sites represent portions of plantation settlements — including main house complexes, slave settlements, industrial sites, and facilities along the edge of waterways. Also present, in seemingly great numbers, are tar kilns. Also present, although probably under represented in the archaeological assessments, are the small historic campsites associated with the timber industry of the area.

Clearly the range of sites for the region is impressive and should be cause for considerable concern when land disturbing activities are proposed. The potential for impacting a significant archaeological site — either directly or indirectly — is great.

Table 1.
Archaeological Sites Recorded in the Study Area.

Site #	Location	Site Type
38BK7		prehistoric
38BK8		prehistoric
38BK51	E599200 N3661560	historic
38BK58	E606750 N3647270	church
38BK64	E599370 N3661960	historic
38BK69		Historic cemetery
38BK71	E599090 N3658450	historic
38BK118	E599520 N3651300	prehistoric & historic
38BK119		prehistoric
38BK145		historic
38BK146	E603230 N3649330	historic
38BK147		prehistoric
38BK148	E604170 N3647850	historic kiln
38BK149	E603970 N3648220	historic
38BK150	E604780 N3647960	historic
38BK151	E605410 N3847800	historic
38BK152	E603130 N3647880	historic
38BK153	E603590 N3647880	historic
38BK154	E603880 N3649260	historic
38BK155	E605820 N3648480	prehistoric
38BK156	E605110 N3649670	prehistoric pottery
38BK157	E604990 N3647980	prehistoric
38BK163	E601700 N3658450	historic
38BK165	E599840 N3658640	historic
38BK179		historic

Site #	Location	Site Type
38BK180		historic
38BK182		historic
38BK183		historic
38BK186	Grove Creek	historic
38BK187	E602750 N3652600	historic
38BK189	E598720 N3661900	prehistoric
38BK197	E604650 N3651240	historic
38BK198	E603820 N3650310	historic
38BK199	E606430 N3650910	historic
38BK200	E607250 N3649750	historic
38BK201	E607200 N3650010	historic kiln
38BK270	E606410 N3647610	prehistoric & historic
38BK271	E606310 N3647700	prehistoric & historic
38BK272	E604900 N3650040	prehistoric & historic
38BK273	E604230 N3651100	prehistoric
38BK274	E603960 N3651500	prehistoric
38BK275	E603890 N3651660	prehistoric
38BK276	E603210 N3652760	historic
38BK284		prehistoric & historic
38BK309	E609270 N3652820	prehistoric pottery
38BK309	E609270 N3652820	prehistoric & historic
38BK310	E609120 N3652660	prehistoric pottery
38BK310	E609120 N3652660	prehistoric

Table 1, cont.
Archaeological Sites Recorded in the Study Area.

Site #	Location	Site Type
38BK311	E608980 N3652600	prehistoric
38BK311	E608980 N3652600	prehistoric pottery
38BK312	E608890 N3652460	prehistoric
38BK312	E608890 N3652460	prehistoric pottery
38BK315	E606410 N3650220	prehistoric pottery
38BK316	E606290 N3650280	prehistoric pottery
38BK317	E605730 N3650570	prehistoric lithics
38BK318	E605420 N3649970	prehistoric & historic
38BK319	E605280 N3650060	prehistoric pottery
38BK324	E605710 N3650290	prehistoric
38BK326	E604910 N3649850	historic
38BK327	E603480 N3652060	prehistoric
38BK330	E603340 N3652200	prehistoric
38BK331	E604260 N3651630	prehistoric
38BK332	E604680 N3651480	prehistoric
38BK333	E605310 N3651250	prehistoric
38BK334	E604110 N3651030	prehistoric
38BK335	E606300 N3650280	historic
38BK336	E605390 N3651050	prehistoric
38BK337	E604800 N3651260	prehistoric
38BK338	E605490 N3651060	prehistoric
38BK343	E605570 N3651050	prehistoric
38BK344	E604090 N3649070	historic
38BK345	Cooper River	canoe

Site #	Location	Site Type
38BK364		historic
38BK392	E603460 N3648080	prehistoric
38BK395	E602700 N3658970	historic
38BK400	E. Branch Cooper River	prehistoric & historic
38BK404	E600510 N3649870	prehistoric & historic
38BK405		site file missing
38BK471	E610170 N3650270	historic cemetery
38BK474	E599230 N3657880	historic
38BK475	E599510 N3659070	historic
38BK599	E600240 N3657810	prehistoric & historic
38BK602	E599830 N3659370	prehistoric & historic
38BK603	E601200 N3656720	historic
38BK604	E601080 E3656040	prehistoric & historic
38BK605	E603070 N3647950	historic shipwreck
38BK609	E601920 N3653420	historic
38BK683	E600720 N3652980	prehistoric & historic
38BK729	E609100 N3647750	historic tar kiln
38BK771	E609850 N3648820	historic
38BK772	E609600 N3650200	historic
38BK775	E608410 N3650050	prehistoric & historic
38BK776	E608380 N3650100	prehistoric
38BK845	E589200 N3658700	historic

Table 1, cont.
Archaeological Sites Recorded in the Study Area.

Site #	Location	Site Type
38BK858	E599120 N3660190	historic
38BK869	E599250 N3661570	historic
38BK975		site file missing
38BK1243	E608350 N3648140	prehistoric
38BK1244	E608280 N3648180	prehistoric
38BK1245	E608260 N2649800	prehistoric
38BK1265	E608250 N3647880	historic
38BK1268	Cooper River	historic
38BK1287	E610760 N3650280	prehistoric
38BK1288	E608340 N3647860	prehistoric
38BK1289	E608700 N3649580	prehistoric
38BK1290	E607530 N3647850	prehistoric
38BK1662	Cooper River	prehistoric canoe
38BK1727	E603900 N365280	prehistoric
38BK1728	E603240 N3652680	historic
38BK1729	E603700 N3652960	historic
38BK1730	E603700 N3652860	prehistoric & historic
38BK1731	E602810 N3652540	historic
38BK1732	E602920 N3651460	prehistoric & historic
38BK1737	E604600 N3652880	prehistoric
38BK1738	E603700 N3653460	historic
38BK1739	E603720 N3653240	prehistoric & historic
38BK1740	E603300 N3653580	prehistoric
38BK1741	E603360 N3653560	prehistoric

Site #	Location	Site Type
38BK1742	E603380 N3653140	prehistoric & historic
38BK1743	E603020 N3653160	historic
38BK1751	E606300 N3651660	historic tar kiln
38BK1752	E605540 N3652420	historic tar kiln
38BK1753	E606010 N3651700	historic tar kiln
38BK1754	E605400 N3652600	historic tar kiln
38BK1754	E605400 N3652600	historic tar kiln
38BK1759	E606200 N3652540	historic
38BK1759	E606200 N3652540	historic
38BK1760	E606140 N3652600	historic
38BK1760	E606140 N3652600	historic
38BK1764	E599000 N3660500	historic
38BK1767	E598600 N3658640	historic
38BK1769	E598960 N3658420	historic
38BK1779	Back River	prehistoric pottery
38BK1789	E601120 N3657550	prehistoric
38BK1790	E602350 N3656280	historic

CONCLUSIONS

Several conclusions can be drawn from this brief overview of prehistoric and historic sites in the immediate vicinity of the Cooper River Zone Planning Area. The first, and most fundamental, is that **the area has extraordinary archaeological sensitivity and is likely to produce a broad range of heritage resources.**

The currently available resources reveal that the site types include prehistoric scatters, prehistoric camps or villages, submerged prehistoric sites (such as erosional deposits from nearby bluffs, as well as water craft), historic plantations (including a broad range of dwellings such as main houses and slave settlements), historic dwellings (such as may be associated with either gathering timber resources or small-scale farming), historic cemeteries, and submerged historic resources (including ship wrecks, landings, ferries, and other deposits). The identified materials provide clues to the lifeways of Native Americans, African Americans, and Euro-Americans. The time span of these sites is at least 7,000 B.C. through the early twentieth century.

The second conclusion, which follows from the first, is that **any ground disturbing activity in the immediate area has a high potential for causing irreparable harm to these resources.**

Harm may come as a direct result of development activity, such as through the construction of a road or sewer, or through the creation of an industrial park or housing development. In addition, an equally significant source of damage to these resources comes from secondary impacts. For example, when an industrial park is created, it spurs additional economic development: convenience stores, gasoline stations, and small housing developments are created. Schools are built for the children of those moving in to work at the industrial park. Additional strip malls are constructed, along with banks and grocery stores. In many cases only the initial development — the industrial site — is actually subject to laws requiring archaeological survey, even though far more heritage resources may be damaged or destroyed by the subsequent, secondary activities.

Similarly, when roads are created or widened, or when utilities such as water are put into place, these events spur additional development — which again may receive little or no historic preservation overview.

As a result it is critical that planning in the Cooper River Zone Planning Area take into account not only planned and anticipated primary development activities, but also the many and varied secondary development results. Although this is frequently difficult on a project-by-project basis, planners can develop realistic, if approximate, ideas of development spurred by various undertakings.

Today the Cooper River area is one of the few remaining "cores" of prehistoric and historic resources in the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester area. Failure to appropriately plan for minimally the study of the heritage resources present in the area will be a tragic loss to South Carolina.

The Cooper River Historic District is an excellent initial step in ensuring that the resources of this area are appropriately managed. Although this district is not yet listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it has been determined eligible for listing by the State Historic Preservation Officer. As a result, **any activities in the vast bulk of the Cooper River Zone Planning Area must take into account the effects of the action will have on the resources of this district.**

The effects are not limited to simply damage or destruction of a particular resource, but may also include the gradual degradation of the integrity of the district. In other words, while destroying an archaeological site would likely be considered an adverse effect, so too might the filling of wetland (which would

change the nature of the area), or even the creation of a multistory industrial facility on the edge of the Cooper River (which would present a visual intrusion). **It is critical that proposed actions in this area be evaluated against a yardstick of how the undertaking will change the character of the Cooper River and its environs, both directly, and subsequently, through secondary development activities.**

There are relatively few topographic settings which have failed to produce archaeological remains. Although low, poorly drained soils typically have a low density of archaeological remains, the previous studies reveal that a few resources will likely be present. Sometimes they are associated with sandy ridges (which perhaps serve as very specialized loci taking advantage of the edge effect), sometimes they are associated with industrial activities, such as brick making or the production of turpentine and tar (which are not necessarily dependent on well drained soils), and sometimes they are associated with other features which we have yet to clearly understand.

Of course this isn't to say that some areas are likely to have higher archaeological potential. For example, bluffs overlooking swamps or flowing rivers or creeks are frequently locations of major historic and prehistoric sites. So too are areas of deep, well drained, sandy soil.

As a result, **virtually all areas in the Cooper River Zone Planning Area warrant archaeological investigations prior to any degree of ground disturbing activities.**

Even areas which at first glance exhibit previous disturbance should be investigated. Timber harvesting and agriculture, while frequently damaging to archaeological resources, are not always destructive. Nor do all research questions rely on pristine sites. In fact, considering the extensive timbering which has taken place in this portion of South Carolina, expecting to encounter undisturbed sites is unrealistic — it is something akin to expecting an urban site not to exhibit the disturbance of several hundred years of building, demolition, and rebuilding. Just as such "disturbances" are part of the urban setting, it is likely that some degree of timber and agricultural damage are part of the Cooper River setting.

Although these discussions have not focused on the architectural heritage of the area, it is clear that **there is also a strong potential for encountering standing historic structures in many areas of the Cooper River Zone Planning Area.**

Sometimes the public thinks of significant architectural sites as huge Tara-like plantation houses with huge porticos and white columns. Certainly there are a few such plantation houses, although most more closely resemble small farm houses than Tara. In addition, there are likely a number of industrial or utility buildings associated with early plantations still standing. And there are certainly a number of tenant houses, some of which may be adaptions or renovations of earlier slave cabins.

The point is that all of these structures may help document the architectural development of the Cooper River area and should be considered significant until proven otherwise. All should be subjected to documentation, since even the vernacular architecture is significant and helps reveal the history of South Carolina.

There are also likely to be a significant number of underwater or submerged resources, not only in the larger rivers and creeks, but also in the slow moving swamps, many of which are remnant ricefields. The remains may include canoes, barges, or ships, as well as features such as trunks or water control devices. As a result, **any activities in wetlands should be considered as carefully as undertakings on dry ground, since there is a potential risk to archaeological resources.** Just because the undertaking is in a wetland, or a creek crossing, or within a river, does not mean that it won't affect either an archaeological or historical resource, or have an impact on the proposed Cooper River National Register Historic District.

None of this is to say that development can't place in the Cooper River Zone Planning Area. It can, but it must be coupled with extensive and careful archaeological and historic research.

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